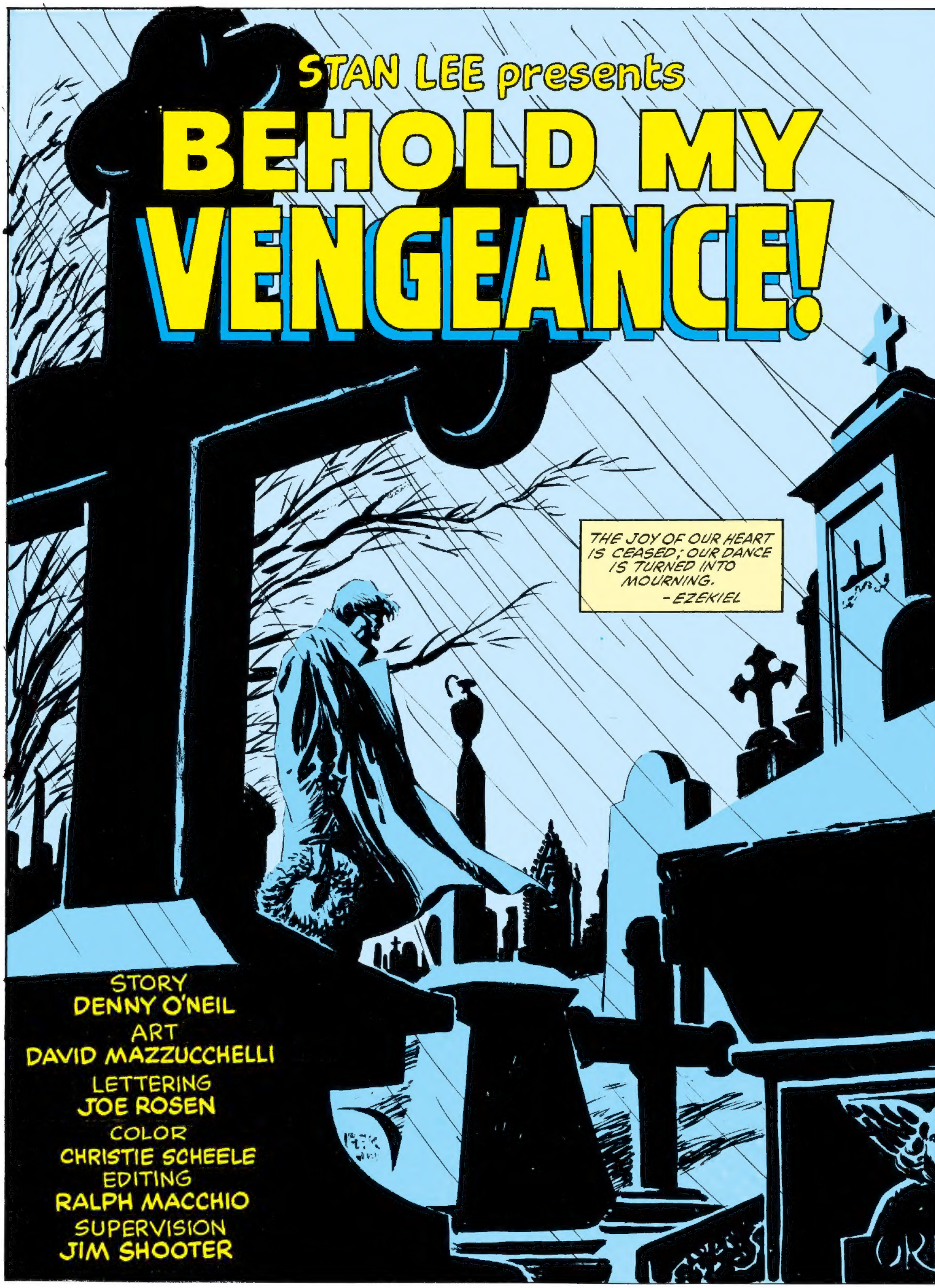
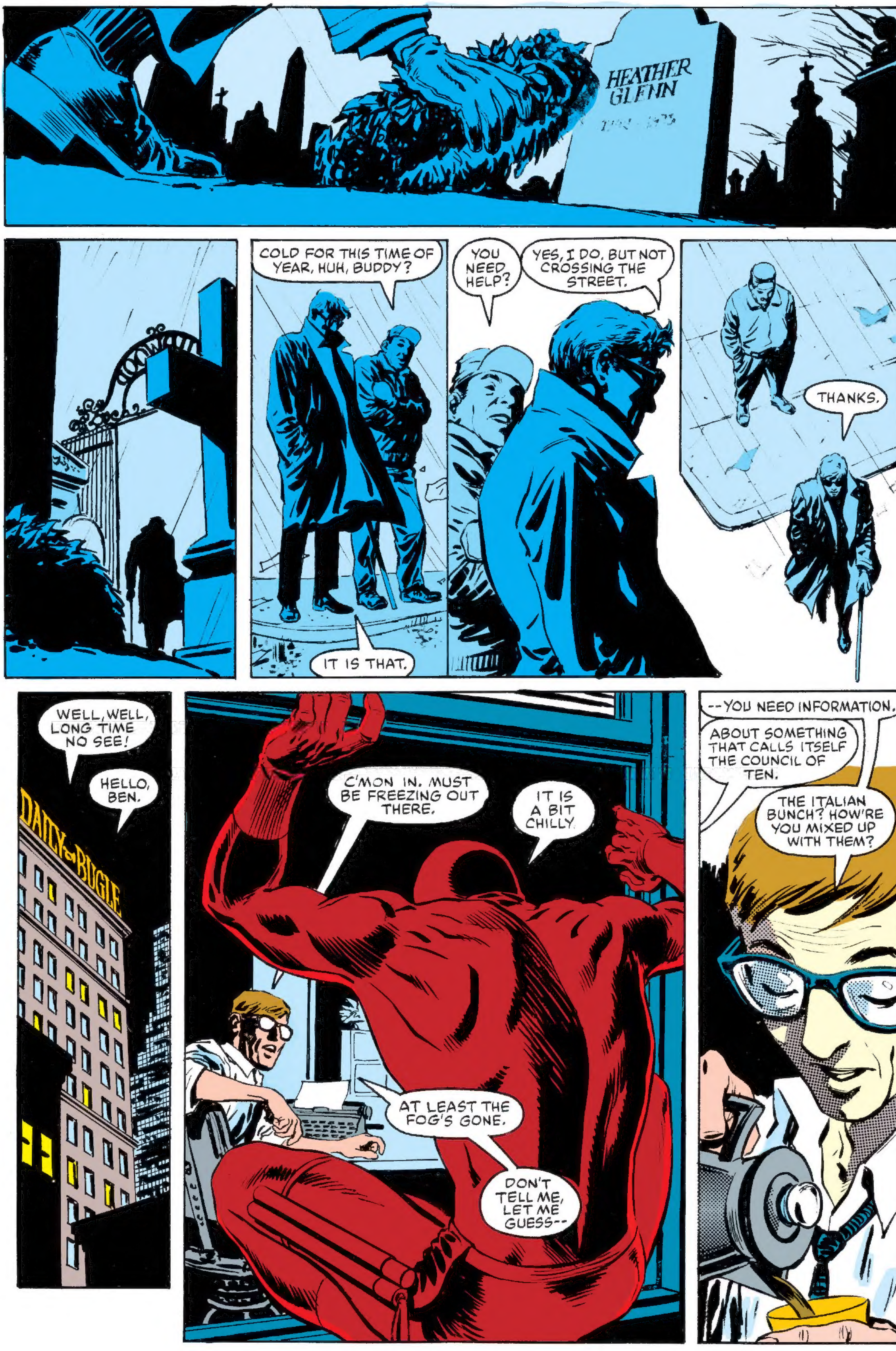
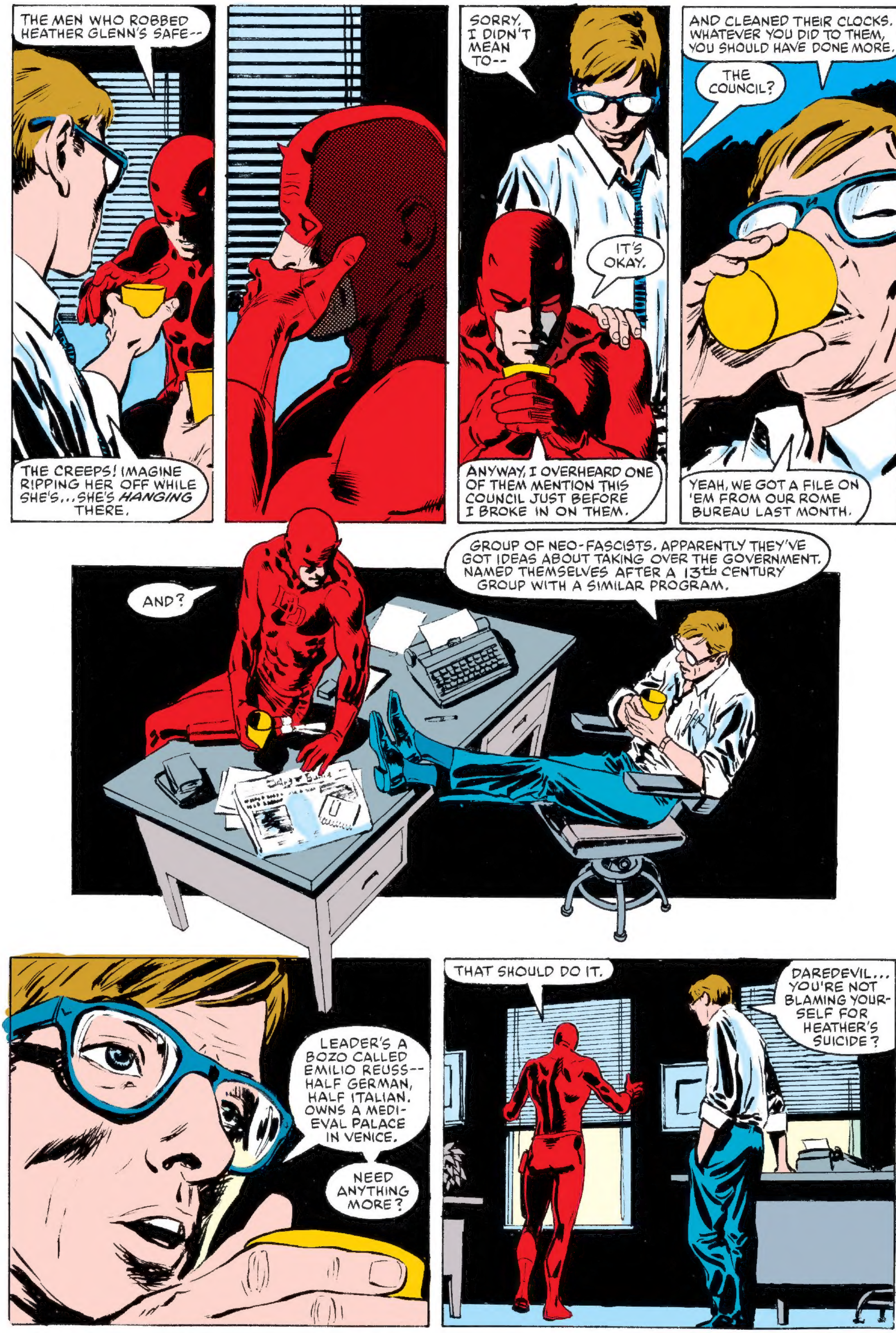
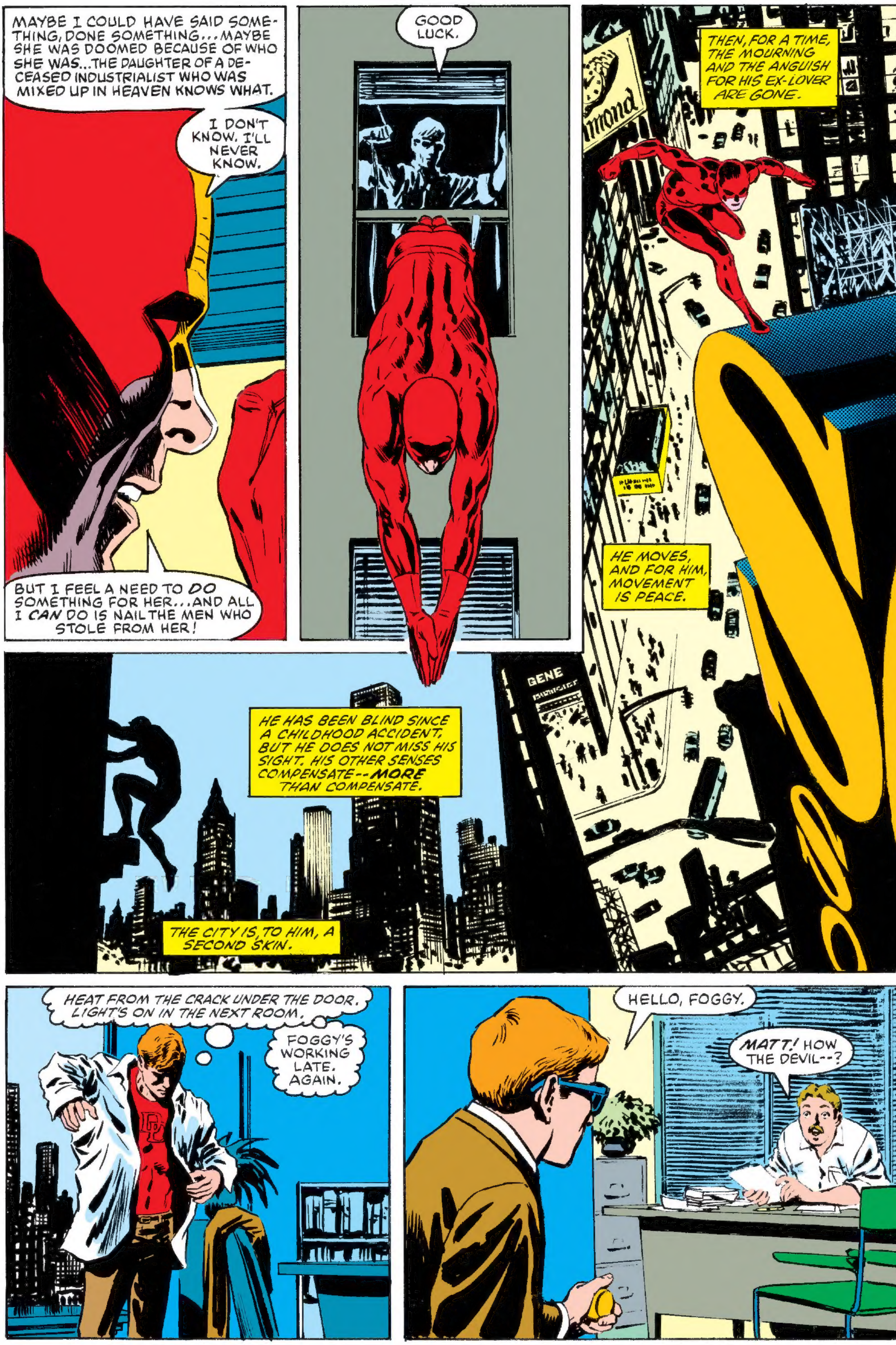

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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL
DEATH IN VENICE



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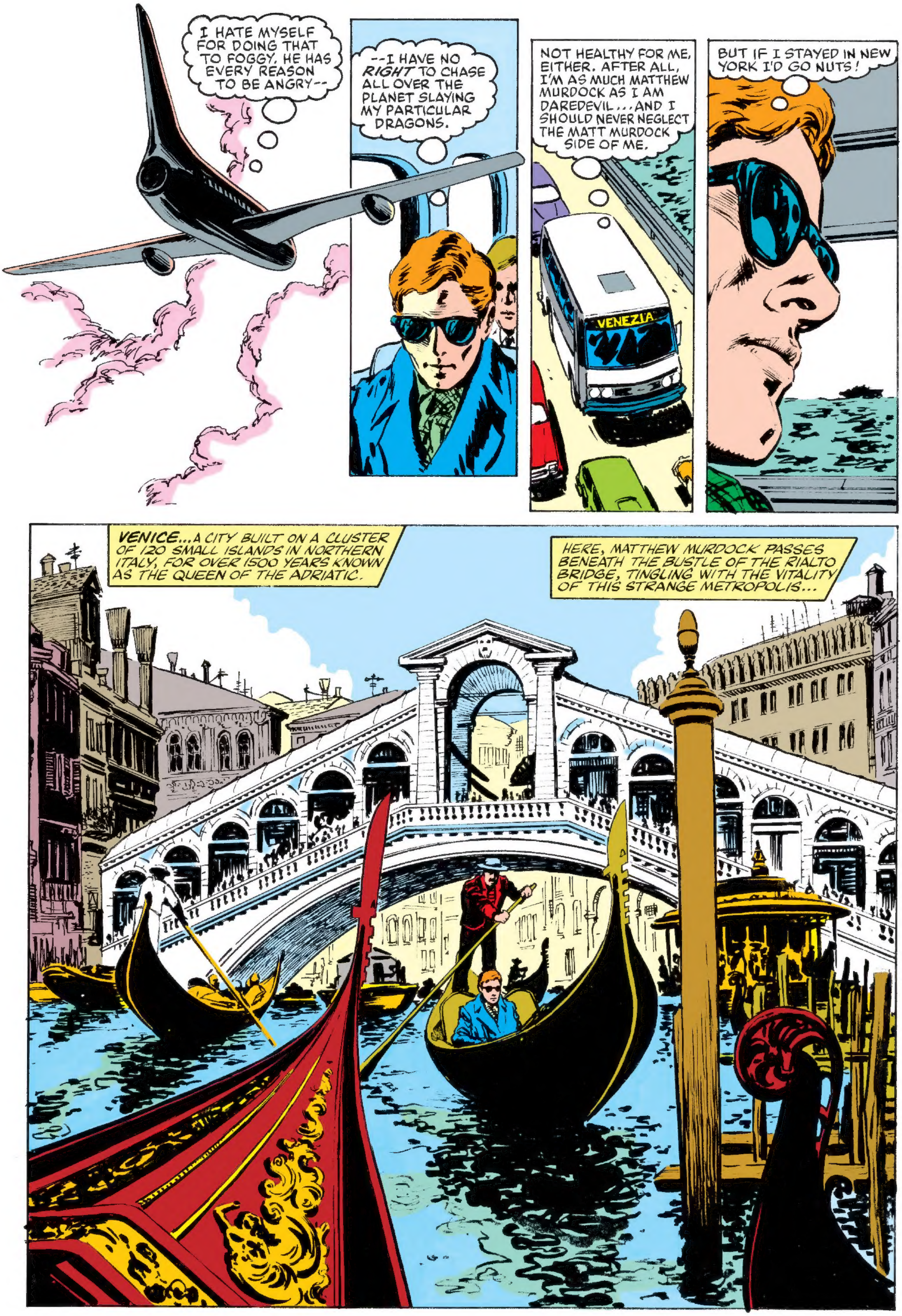

HEATHER GLENN
COLD FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR, HUH, BUDDY?
IT IS THAT.
YOU NEED HELP?
YES, I DO, BUT NOT CROSSING THE STREET.
THANKS.
DAILY BUGLE
WELL, WELL, LONG TIME NO SEE!
HELLO, BEN.
C'MON IN. MUST BE FREEZING OUT THERE.
IT IS A BIT CHILLY.
AT LEAST THE FOG'S GONE.
DON'T TELL ME, LET ME GUESS--
--YOU NEED INFORMATION.
ABOUT SOMETHING THAT CALLS ITSELF THE COUNCIL OF TEN.
THE ITALIAN BUNCH? HOW'RE YOU MIXED UP WITH THEM?


THE MEN WHO ROBBED HEATHER GLENN'S SAFE--
THE CREEPS! IMAGINE RIPPING HER OFF WHILE SHE'S... SHE'S *HANGING* THERE.
SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
IT'S OKAY.
ANYWAY, I OVERHEARD ONE OF THEM MENTION THIS COUNCIL JUST BEFORE I BROKE IN ON THEM.
AND CLEANED THEIR CLOCKS. WHATEVER YOU DID TO THEM, YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE MORE.
THE COUNCIL?
YEAH, WE GOT A FILE ON 'EM FROM OUR ROME BUREAU LAST MONTH.
GROUP OF NEO-FASCISTS. APPARENTLY THEY'VE GOT IDEAS ABOUT TAKING OVER THE GOVERNMENT. NAMED THEMSELVES AFTER A 13th CENTURY GROUP WITH A SIMILAR PROGRAM.
AND?
LEADER'S A BOZO CALLED EMILIO REUSS--HALF GERMAN, HALF ITALIAN. OWNS A MEDIEVAL PALACE IN VENICE.
NEED ANYTHING MORE?
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
DAREDEVIL... YOU'RE NOT BLAMING YOURSELF FOR HEATHER'S SUICIDE?

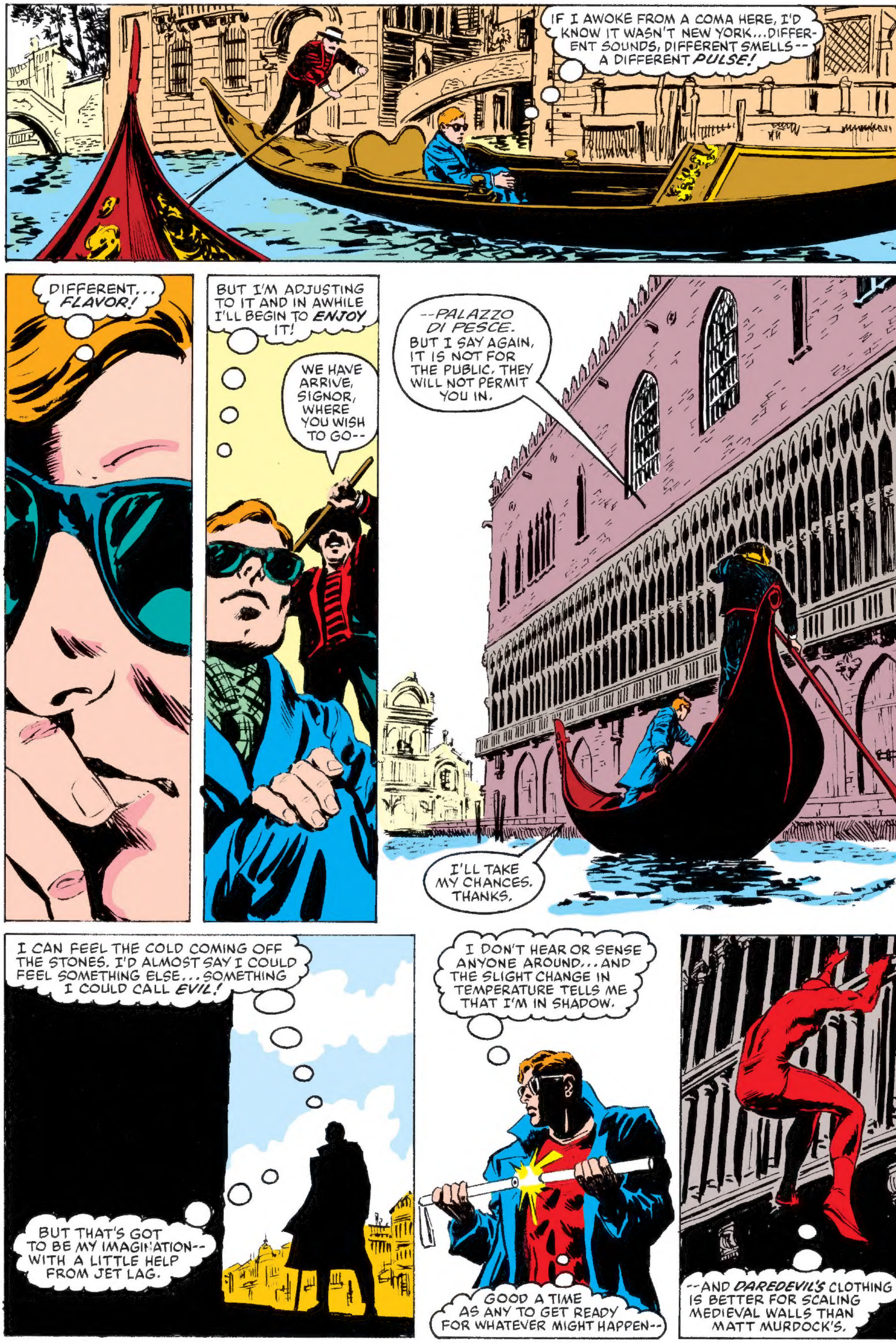

MAYBE I COULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING, DONE SOMETHING... MAYBE SHE WAS DOOMED BECAUSE OF WHO SHE WAS... THE DAUGHTER OF A DECEASED INDUSTRIALIST WHO WAS MIXED UP IN HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT.
I DON'T KNOW. I'LL NEVER KNOW.
BUT I FEEL A NEED TO DO SOMETHING FOR HER... AND ALL I CAN DO IS NAIL THE MEN WHO STOLE FROM HER!
GOOD LUCK.
THEN, FOR A TIME, THE MOURNING AND THE ANGUISH FOR HIS EX-LOVER ARE GONE.
HE MOVES, AND FOR HIM, MOVEMENT IS PEACE.
HE HAS BEEN BLIND SINCE A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT, BUT HE DOES NOT MISS HIS SIGHT. HIS OTHER SENSES COMPENSATE--MORE THAN COMPENSATE.
THE CITY IS, TO HIM, A SECOND SKIN.
HEAT FROM THE CRACK UNDER THE DOOR. LIGHT'S ON IN THE NEXT ROOM.
FOGGY'S WORKING LATE. AGAIN.
HELLO, FOGGY.
MATT! HOW THE DEVIL--?



NEVER MIND. LISTEN, MATT, I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT OUR TAX SITUATION AND--
I'M GOING TO ITALY.
YOU'RE *WHAT?*
LISTEN, PARTNER, NO WAY! THE LAW FIRM OF NELSON AND MURDOCK IS RAPIDLY GOING TO HECK IN A HANDCART AND THE MURDOCK HALF OF THE PARTNERSHIP IS *NOT*--REPEAT *NOT*--SKIPPING OUT.
SORRY.
SORRY MY EAR! MATT, YOU TRAIPSED OFF TO *JAPAN* LAST YEAR AND A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO YOU WENT TO *ARIZONA* AND--
IT'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO, FOGGY.
OKAY! *OKAY!* BUT NELSON AND MURDOCK MAY NOT *BE* HERE WHEN YOU GET BACK!
YOU HEAR ME?
WELL, HAVE A GOOD TIME AND SEND ME A POST...
AW, HECK...

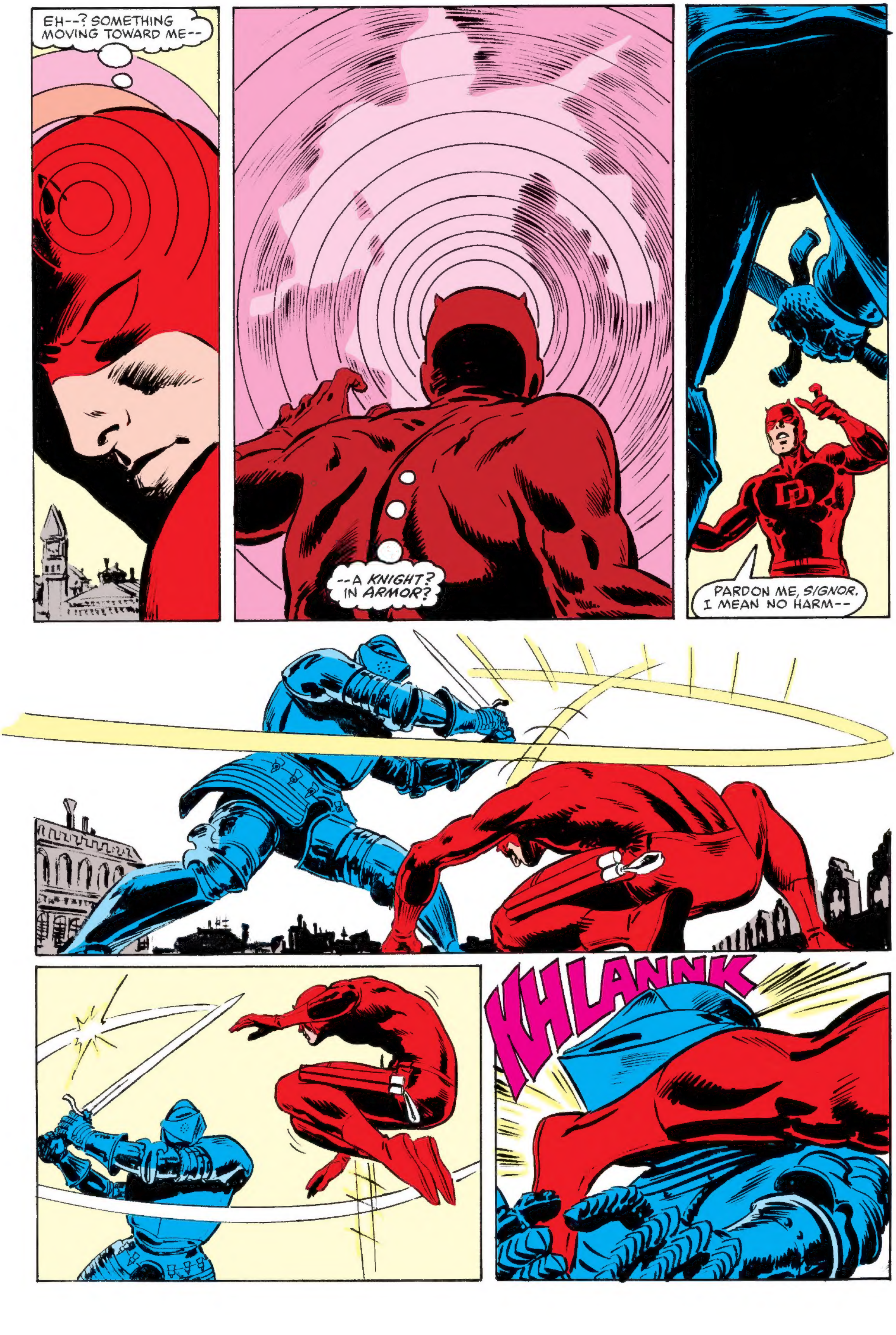


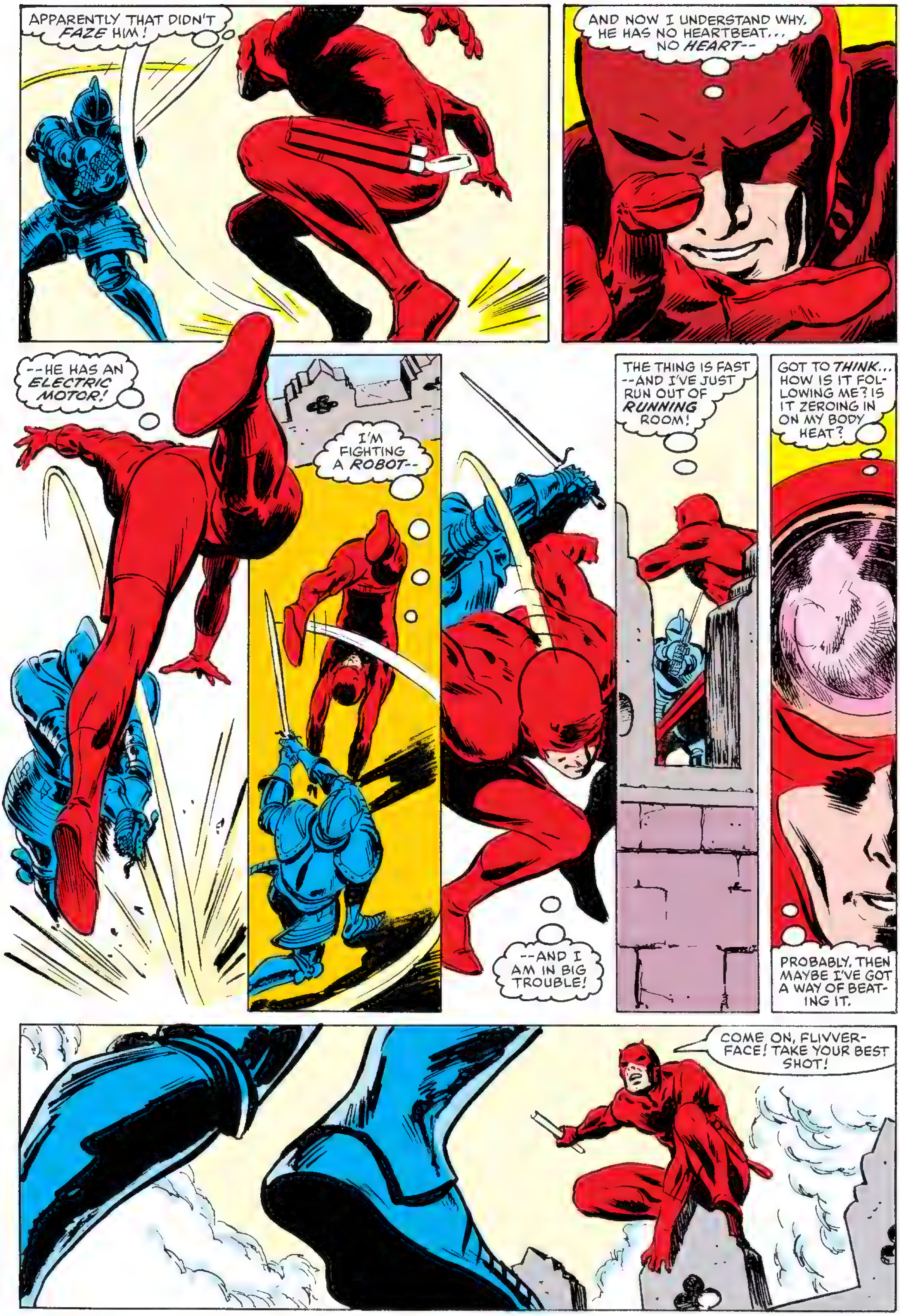
I HATE MYSELF FOR DOING THAT TO FOGGY. HE HAS EVERY REASON TO BE ANGRY--
--I HAVE NO RIGHT TO CHASE ALL OVER THE PLANET SLAYING MY PARTICULAR DRAGONS.
NOT HEALTHY FOR ME, EITHER. AFTER ALL, I'M AS MUCH MATTHEW MURDOCK AS I AM DAREDEVIL... AND I SHOULD NEVER NEGLECT THE MATT MURDOCK SIDE OF ME.
VENEZIA
BUT IF I STAYED IN NEW YORK I'D GO NUTS!
VENICE... A CITY BUILT ON A CLUSTER OF 120 SMALL ISLANDS IN NORTHERN ITALY, FOR OVER 1500 YEARS KNOWN AS THE QUEEN OF THE ADRIATIC.
HERE, MATTHEW MURDOCK PASSES BENEATH THE BUSTLE OF THE RIALTO BRIDGE, TINGLING WITH THE VITALITY OF THIS STRANGE METROPOLIS...

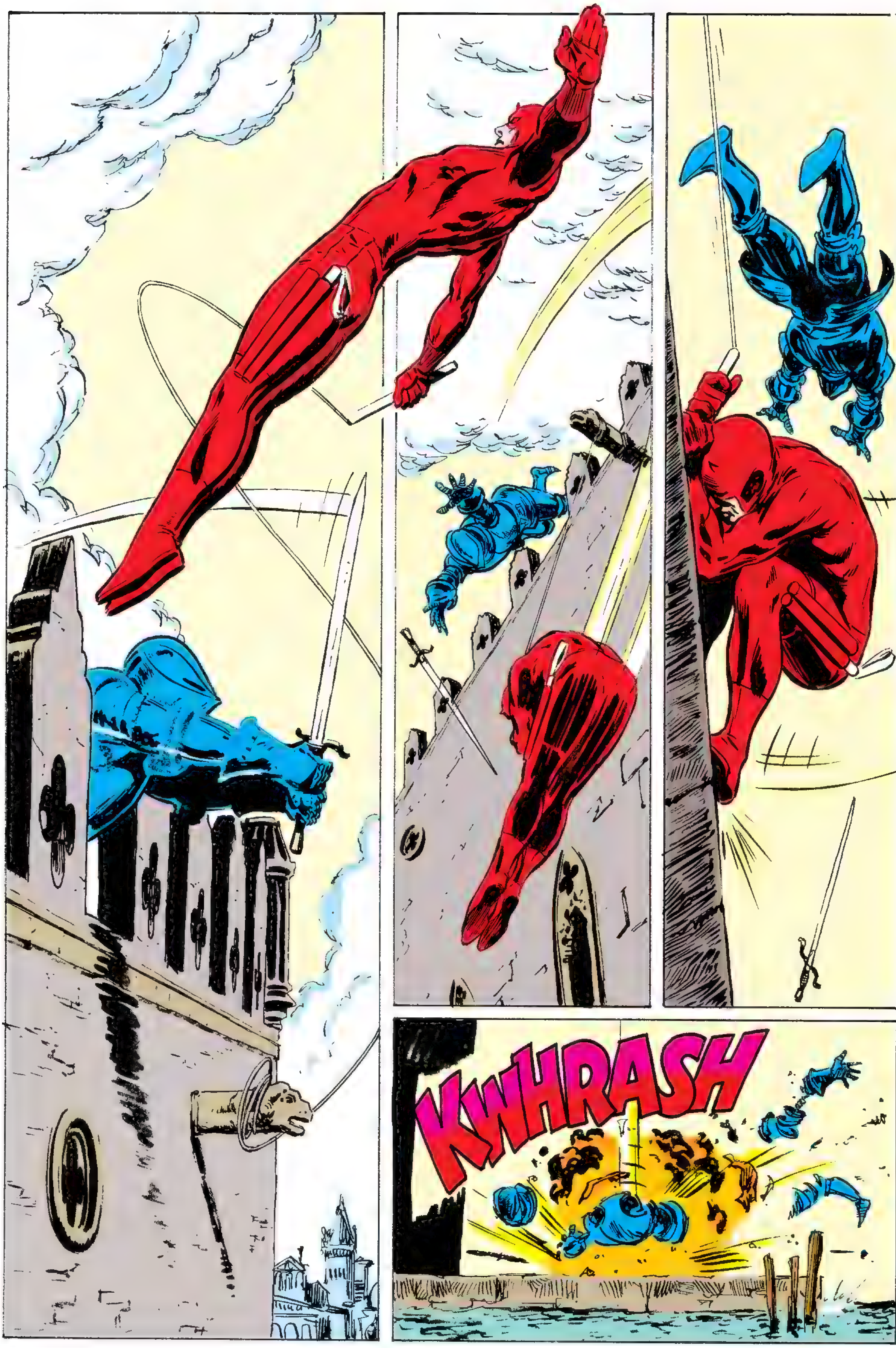


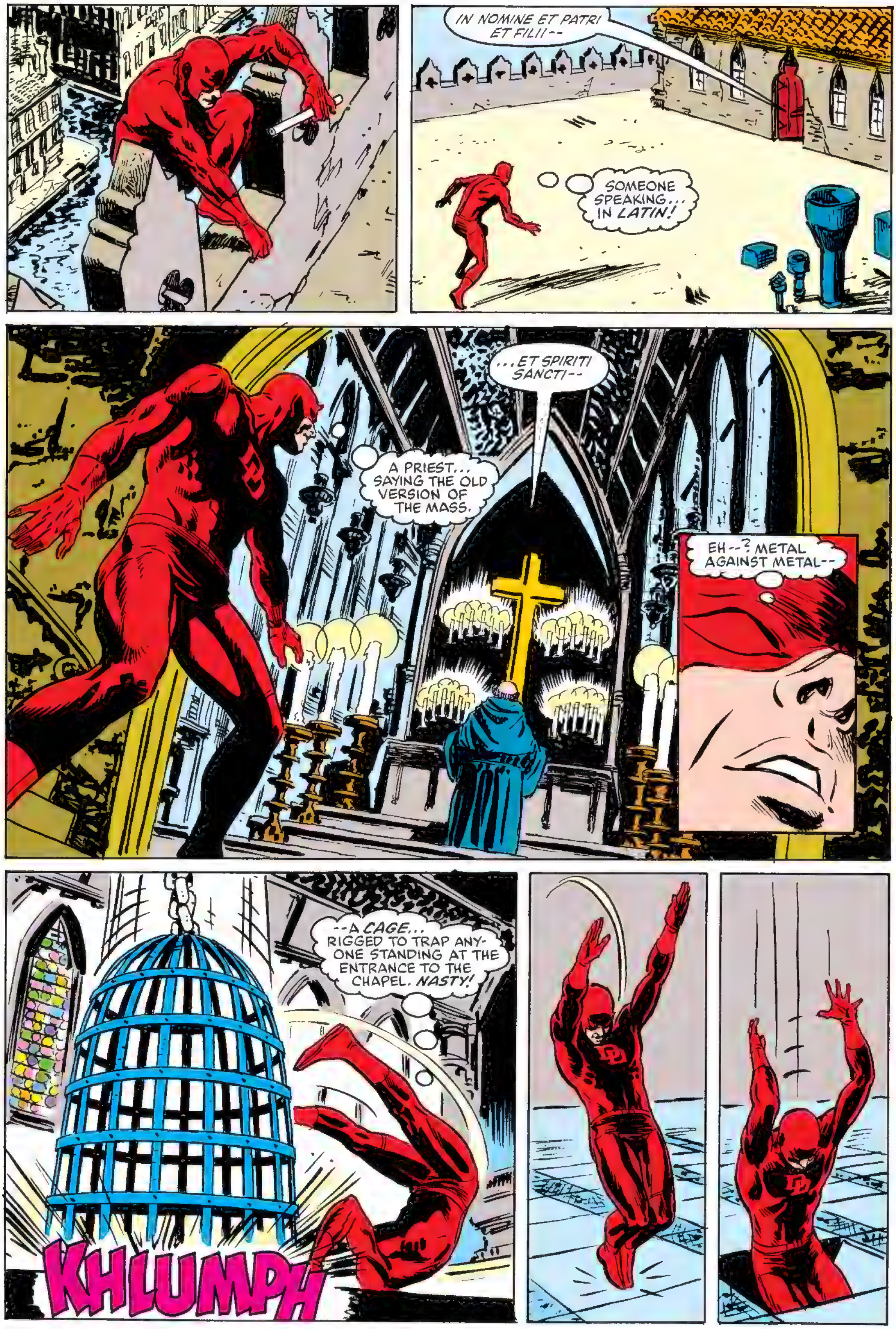
IF I AWOKE FROM A COMA HERE, I'D KNOW IT WASN'T NEW YORK... DIFFERENT SOUNDS, DIFFERENT SMELLS-- A DIFFERENT PULSE!
DIFFERENT... FLAVOR!
BUT I'M ADJUSTING TO IT AND IN AWHILE I'LL BEGIN TO ENJOY IT!
WE HAVE ARRIVE, SIGNOR, WHERE YOU WISH TO GO--
--PALAZZO DI PESCE. BUT I SAY AGAIN, IT IS NOT FOR THE PUBLIC. THEY WILL NOT PERMIT YOU IN.
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES. THANKS.
I CAN FEEL THE COLD COMING OFF THE STONES. I'D ALMOST SAY I COULD FEEL SOMETHING ELSE... SOMETHING I COULD CALL EVIL!
BUT THAT'S GOT TO BE MY IMAGINATION-- WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM JET LAG.
I DON'T HEAR OR SENSE ANYONE AROUND... AND THE SLIGHT CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE TELLS ME THAT I'M IN SHADOW.
GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO GET READY FOR WHATEVER MIGHT HAPPEN--
--AND DAREDEVIL'S CLOTHING IS BETTER FOR SCALING MEDIEVAL WALLS THAN MATT MURDOCK'S.


SOMEONE IS CLIMBING THE WALL OUTSIDE.*
*TRANSLATED FROM THE ITALIAN. RALPHAEL.
IT IS PERHAPS THE DAREDEVIL THAT OUR AMERICAN AGENTS SPOKE OF?
HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE?
SO IT SEEMS. HE HAS TRAVELED ACROSS THE OCEAN--
--TO HIS OWN FUNERAL!
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO MURDER HIM?!
MURDER, PRIEST? DEAR ME, NO... THE COUNCIL OF TEN DOES NOT MURDER!
YOU WILL LET SIR LANCELOT DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM?
YES.
KLIK
KLIK
NICE EASY CLIMB. GOOD BIT OF WARM-UP FOR WHATEVER'S NEXT--


EH--? SOMETHING MOVING TOWARD ME--
--A KNIGHT? IN ARMOR?
PARDON ME, SIGNOR. I MEAN NO HARM--
KHLANNK


APPARENTLY THAT DIDN'T FAZE HIM!
AND NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY. HE HAS NO HEARTBEAT... NO HEART--
--HE HAS AN ELECTRIC MOTOR!
I'M FIGHTING A ROBOT--
--AND I AM IN BIG TROUBLE!
THE THING IS FAST --AND I'VE JUST RUN OUT OF RUNNING ROOM!
GOT TO THINK... HOW IS IT FOLLOWING ME? IS IT ZEROING IN ON MY BODY HEAT?
PROBABLY. THEN MAYBE I'VE GOT A WAY OF BEATING IT.
COME ON, FLIVVER-FACE! TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!


KWHRASH

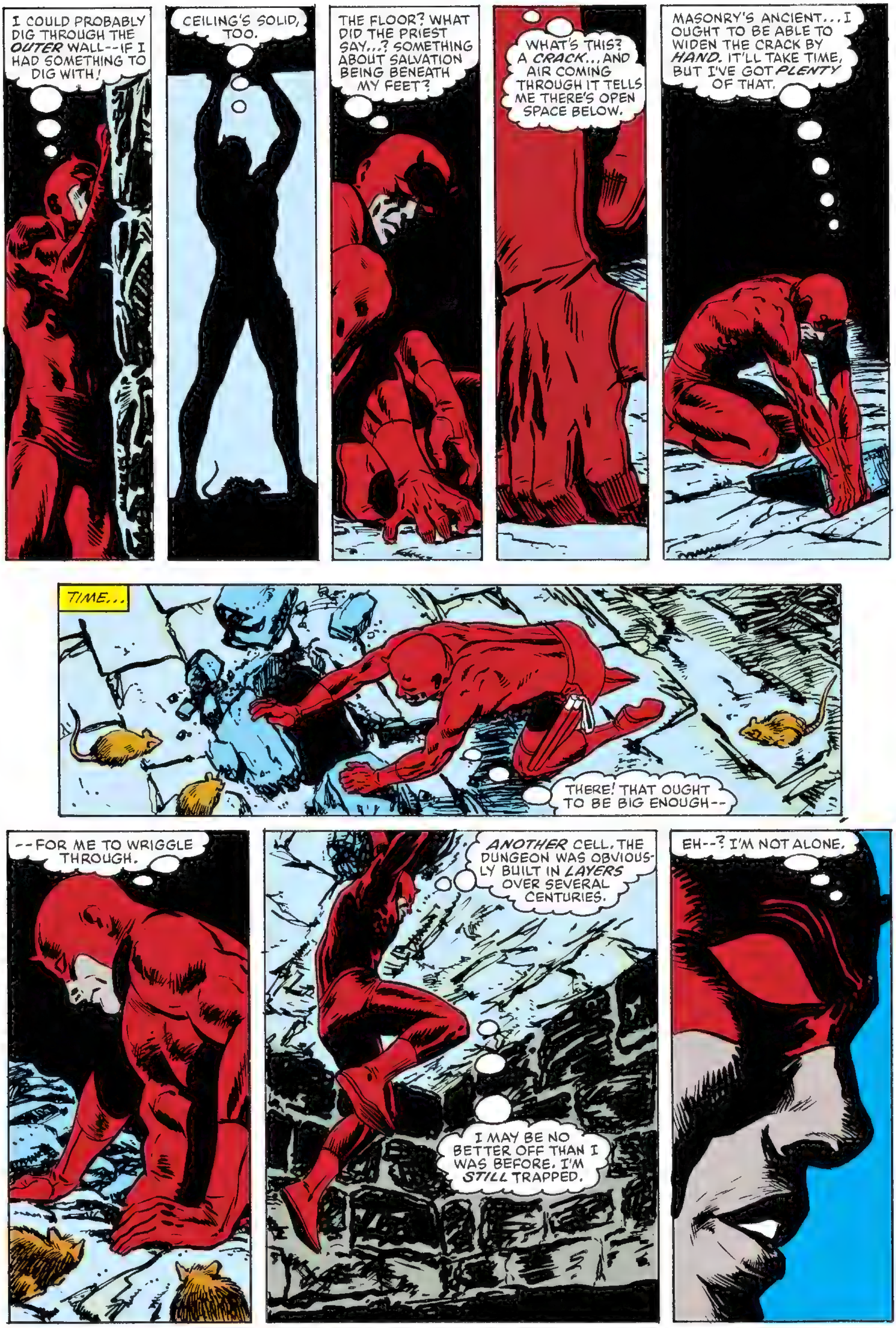

IN NOMINE ET PATRI ET FILII--
SOMEONE SPEAKING... IN LATIN!
...ET SPIRITI SANCTI--
A PRIEST... SAYING THE OLD VERSION OF THE MASS.
EH--? METAL AGAINST METAL--
--A CAGE... RIGGED TO TRAP ANYONE STANDING AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHAPEL. NASTY!
KHLUMPH

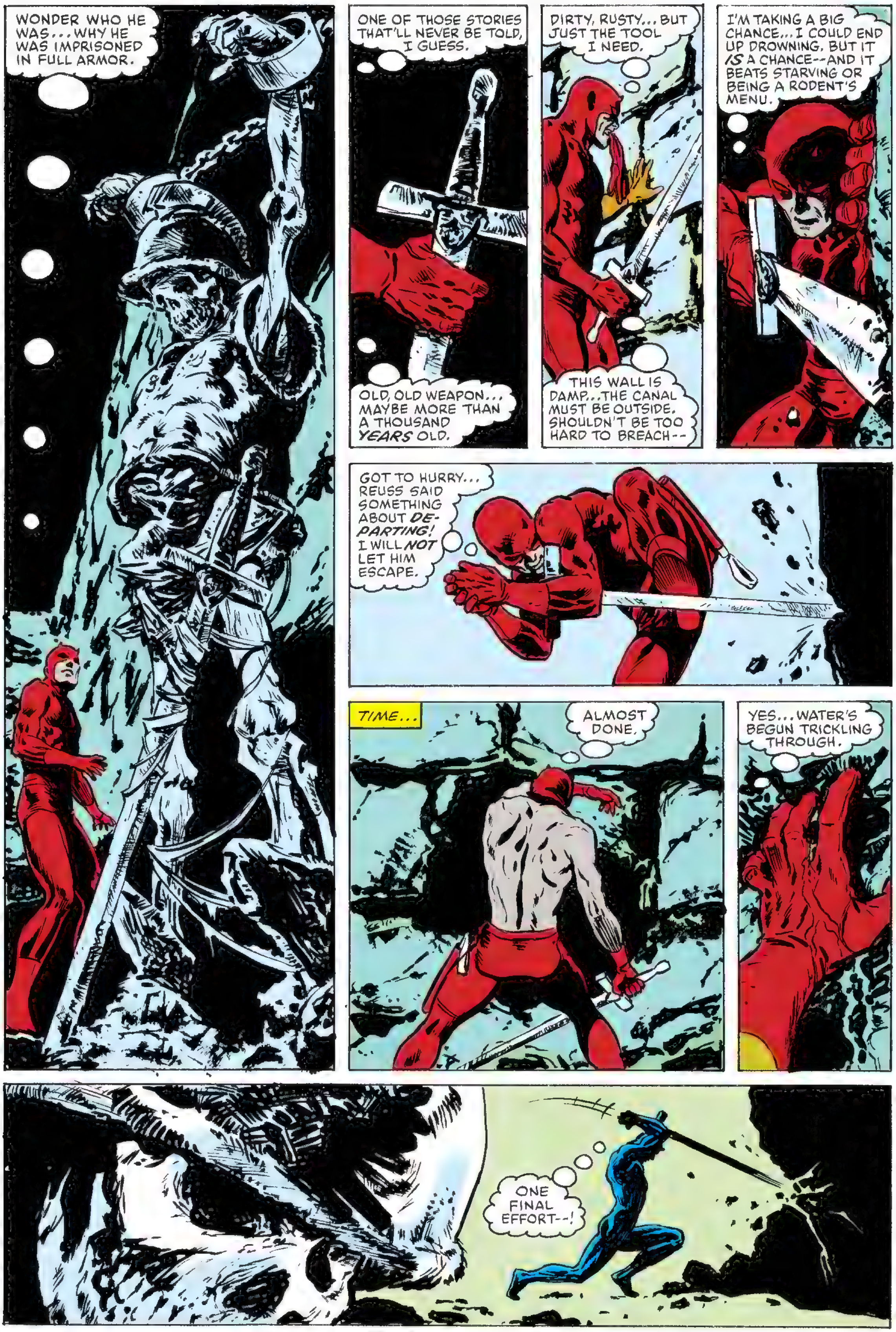

AND NASTIER STILL.
THE AMERICAN DAREDEVIL, I PRESUME!
AND YOU'D BE EMILIO REUSS...OWNER OF THIS CHARMING PILE OF ROCK.
LISTEN AND LISTEN GOOD... I WANT YOU TO SURRENDER YOURSELF TO THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES. RIGHT NOW. IF YOU DO, I'LL TAKE IT EASY ON YOU.
YOU... WILL "TAKE IT EASY"... ON ME!
NO NO NO, AMERICAN DAREDEVIL... WHAT YOU WILL DO IS DIE!
THEN--
I SUPPOSE YOU WISH TO KNOW THE REASON FOR YOUR DEATH!
I HAVE THIS AWFUL FEELING YOU'LL TELL ME WHETHER I DO OR NOT.
IT MAY COMFORT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR DEATH IS PART OF A MAGNIFICENT PLAN.


LOOK AROUND YOU... LOOK AT THE WORLD! WHAT IS IT YOU SEE? CHAOS! ANARCHY! GOVERNMENTS ARE IN TURMOIL... SOCIETIES TREMBLE-- EVEN THE AIR AND WATER ARE FOUL!
YEAH. I CAUGHT A WHIFF OF THAT CANAL OUTSIDE. AN OPEN SEWER.
WE OF THE COUNCIL OF TEN SEEK TO RESTORE ORDER--AS DID OUR THIRTEENTH CENTURY NAMESAKE.
BENITO MUSSOLINI HAD SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN MIND, TOO. YOU REMEMBER BENNY --THE WORLD WAR TWO HOTSHOT.
HE WAS A GREAT LEADER!
HIS MISTAKE WAS IN ALLYING HIMSELF WITH THAT MADMAN HITLER--THAT GERMAN SWINE! IT WAS HITLER WHO RUINED HIS MAGNIFICENT SCHEME.
WE WILL MAKE NO SUCH MISTAKE.
WE ARE MOVING QUIETLY... COLLECTING WHAT WE NEED FROM ALL OVER THE EARTH.
INCLUDING PATENTS? LIKE THE ONE YOUR PALS STOLE FROM HEATHER GLENN'S SAFE...
...THE PATENTS THAT ONCE BELONGED TO HER LATE FATHER-- THE INDUSTRIALIST.
THAT WAS UNFORTUNATE. BUT WE MUST BREAK LAWS IN ORDER TO CREATE LAWS WHICH CAN NOT BE BROKEN!
SIGNOR REUSS... YOU ARE NOT GOING TO WALL HIM IN? THAT WOULD BE INHUMAN!



BE QUIET, LITTLE PRIEST.
SOON, WE WILL BE LEAVING THIS PLACE-- THIS MAGNIFICENT PALACE WHICH HAS BEEN IN MY MOTHER'S FAMILY FOR FIVE CENTURIES. IT IS OLD, CRUMBLING... PAST IT'S USEFULNESS. BUT YOU, AMERICAN DAREDEVIL, WILL REMAIN BEHIND.
DO NOT FEAR THAT YOU WILL STARVE, HOWEVER--
--YOU WILL DOUBTLESS BE THE THE RATS' DINNER FIRST.
COME. WE PREPARE TO DEPART.
AMERIC.N... HAVE FAITH. HAVE... HUMILITY. SOMETIMES THE SALVATION IS NOT IN THE STARS BUT IN THE GROUND BENEATH YOUR FEET.
NICE SENTIMENT. BUT IT DOESN'T DO ME MUCH GOOD AT THE MOMENT.
WHAT WILL HELP IS TO BE FREE OF THESE ROPES. I EXPANDED MY MUSCLES WHILE THEY WERE TYING ME--
--WHICH GAVE ME PLENTY OF SLACK, SO THAT'S NO PROBLEM.
THE WALL IS ALREADY SOLID. THEY MUST'VE USED A QUICK-DRYING MORTAR.
PROBABLY STOLE THE FORMULA.


I COULD PROBABLY DIG THROUGH THE *OUTER* WALL--IF I HAD SOMETHING TO DIG WITH!
CEILING'S SOLID, TOO.
THE FLOOR? WHAT DID THE PRIEST SAY...? SOMETHING ABOUT SALVATION BEING BENEATH MY FEET?
WHAT'S THIS? A *CRACK*... AND AIR COMING THROUGH IT TELLS ME THERE'S OPEN SPACE BELOW.
MASONRY'S ANCIENT... I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO WIDEN THE CRACK BY *HAND.* IT'LL TAKE TIME, BUT I'VE GOT *PLENTY* OF THAT.
TIME...
THERE! THAT OUGHT TO BE BIG ENOUGH--
--FOR ME TO WRIGGLE THROUGH.
ANOTHER CELL. THE DUNGEON WAS OBVIOUSLY BUILT IN *LAYERS* OVER SEVERAL CENTURIES.
I MAY BE NO BETTER OFF THAN I WAS BEFORE. I'M *STILL* TRAPPED.
EH--? I'M NOT ALONE.


WONDER WHO HE WAS... WHY HE WAS IMPRISONED IN FULL ARMOR.
ONE OF THOSE STORIES THAT'LL NEVER BE TOLD, I GUESS.
OLD, OLD WEAPON... MAYBE MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS OLD.
DIRTY, RUSTY... BUT JUST THE TOOL I NEED.
THIS WALL IS DAMP... THE CANAL MUST BE OUTSIDE. SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO BREACH--
I'M TAKING A BIG CHANCE... I COULD END UP DROWNING. BUT IT IS A CHANCE--AND IT BEATS STARVING OR BEING A RODENT'S MENU.
GOT TO HURRY... REUSS SAID SOMETHING ABOUT DE-PARTING! I WILL NOT LET HIM ESCAPE.
TIME...
ALMOST DONE.
YES... WATER'S BEGUN TRICKLING THROUGH.
ONE FINAL EFFORT--!

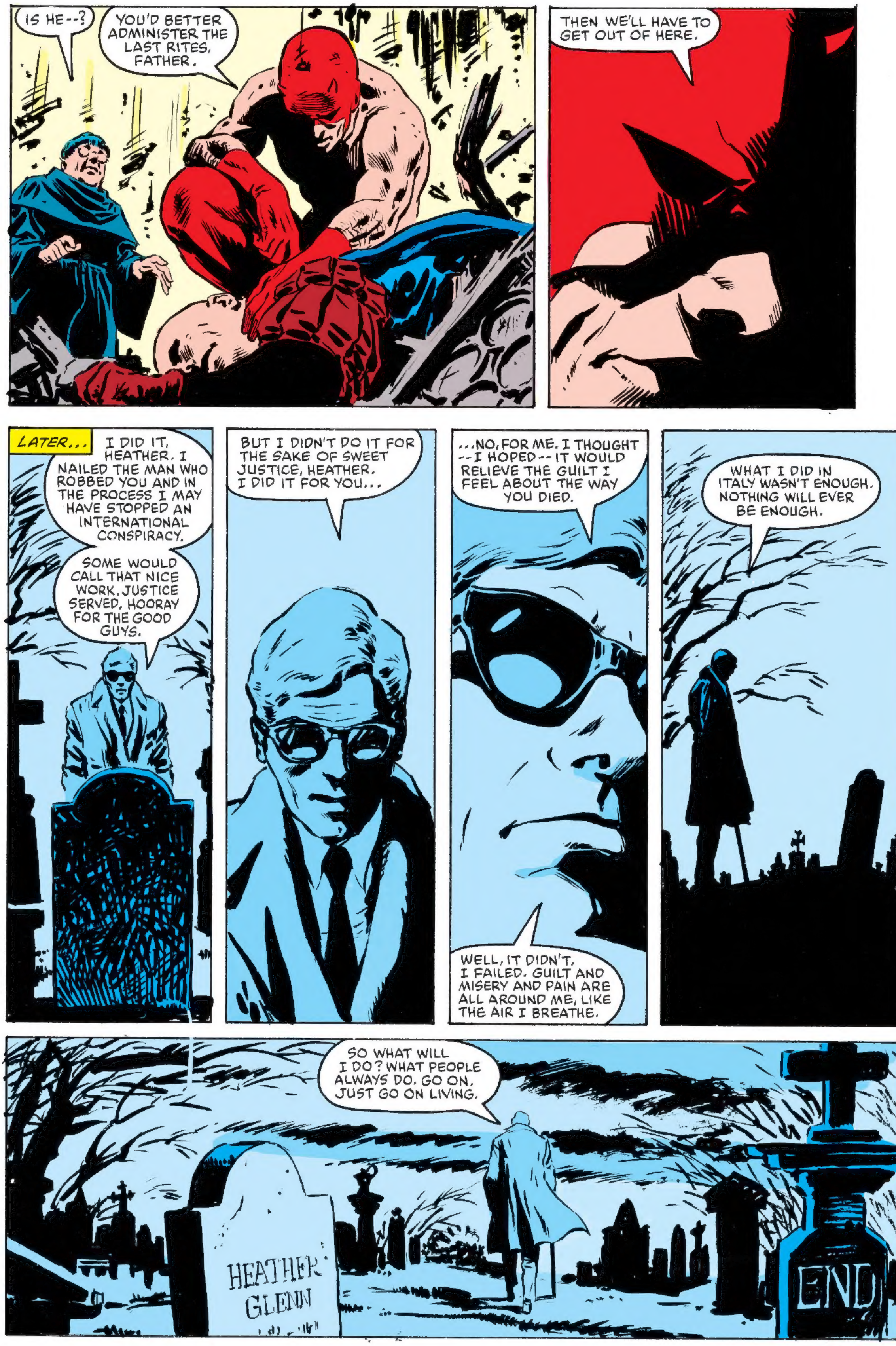


WATER PRESSURE'S FINISHING WHAT I STARTED... KNOCKING THE MASONRY LOOSE.
KNOCKING A *LOT* OF IT LOOSE--
ABOVE...
EMILIO...THE BUILDING IS *TILTING!*
THE ENGINEER ASSURED ME THAT IT WOULD BE SAFE FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR!
GET THE MICROFILMS AND THE IMPORTANT COMPUTER DISCS--!
DON'T BOTHER.
I WARNED YOU, REUSS. I ASKED YOU TO SURRENDER. I ASKED YOU *NICE!*
STOP HIM! *SHOOT HIM!*
YEAH--


--TRY!
UNGFF
BAM
BAM


HE IS IN THERE... EMILIO REUSS--IN THE CHAPEL. HE THINKS TO FIND SANCTUARY--
--BUT I HAVE REMOVED THE EUCHARIST AND IT IS NO SACRILEGE FOR YOU TO ENTER.
DOES HE HAVE A WEAPON?
NO... I THINK NOT.


STUFF FALLING... FEELS LIKE THE PLACE IS COMING DOWN AROUND ME. SO MUCH NOISE... I CAN'T DISTINGUISH INDIVIDUAL SOUNDS.
RADAR SENSE IS CONFUSED, TOO.


IS HE--?
YOU'D BETTER ADMINISTER THE LAST RITES, FATHER.
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
LATER...
I DID IT, HEATHER. I NAILED THE MAN WHO ROBBED YOU AND IN THE PROCESS I MAY HAVE STOPPED AN INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY.
SOME WOULD CALL THAT NICE WORK. JUSTICE SERVED. HOORAY FOR THE GOOD GUYS.
BUT I DIDN'T DO IT FOR THE SAKE OF SWEET JUSTICE, HEATHER. I DID IT FOR YOU...
...NO, FOR ME. I THOUGHT --I HOPED-- IT WOULD RELIEVE THE GUILT I FEEL ABOUT THE WAY YOU DIED.
WELL, IT DIDN'T. I FAILED. GUILT AND MISERY AND PAIN ARE ALL AROUND ME, LIKE THE AIR I BREATHE.
WHAT I DID IN ITALY WASN'T ENOUGH. NOTHING WILL EVER BE ENOUGH.
SO WHAT WILL I DO? WHAT PEOPLE ALWAYS DO. GO ON. JUST GO ON LIVING.
HEATHER GLENN
END